Order No. 01-14-07 POWERHOUSE FIRE CLOSURE ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect natural resources and provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Santa Clara Mojave Rivers Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest. This Order is effective from October 23, 2014, through October 22, 2015.

- 1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Powerhouse Fire Closure Area as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
- 2. Being on any National Forest System road within Powerhouse Fire Closure Area as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
- 3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Powerhouse Fire Closure Area as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

- 1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- 2. Owners or lessees of private land within the Powerhouse Fire Closure Area are exempt from the prohibitions listed above to the extent necessary to gain access to their land.
- 3. Persons who reside on private land within the Powerhouse Fire Closure Area are exempt from the prohibitions listed above to the extent necessary to gain access to their residences.
- 4. Persons with a special use permit or contract from the Forest Service authorizing work within the Powerhouse Fire Closure Area and their employees, sub-contractors, or agents, are exempt from the prohibitions listed above to the extent authorized by the special use permit or contract.
- 5. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Done at Arcadia, California, this 22nd day of October, 2014.

Thomas A. Contreras

Forest Supervisor

Angeles National Forest

File Code: 1510

Date: October 22, 2014

Memorandum for the Record

TC.

From: Thomas A. Contreras, Forest Supervisor

Re: Powerhouse Fire Closure, Forest Order No. 01-14-07

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for issuing a Closure Order for the Powerhouse Fire area on the Angeles National Forest (refer to attached map). This closure will be in effect from October 23, 2014, until October 22, 2015.

The purpose of this closure is to provide for public safety and to facilitate natural resource recovery efforts. The burned area of the Powerhouse Fire has not had enough precipitation to support vegetative recovery and therefore the soils are not stable enough to prevent landslide events and/or erosion, especially during periods of rain and snow. Further, during the summer of 2015, the area will be prone to movement of dry ravel onto roads and trails, rendering them unsafe for passage. Gates have been installed to prevent access by the public until road and trail damage can be assessed and repaired.

Unburned portions of the Powerhouse Fire area, previously closed by Forest Order 01-14-05, including Jupiter and Grass Mountains, have been assessed and recovery from fire suppression actions is sufficient to allow safe access by the public. It is my decision that closure of these areas is no longer required in the interests of public safety and natural resource recovery.

This decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Public notice is through News Media Releases, Forest Service websites, and Ferest Service office postings.

Thomas A. Contreras Forest Supervisor

Order No. 01-14-07 POWERHOUSE FIRE CLOSURE ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST Exhibit A

The boundary of the Powerhouse Fire Closure Area begins at the intersection of Forest Road No. 6N24 and San Francisquito Canyon Road, then continues west along the northern edge of Forest Road No. 6N24 to its intersection with Lake Hughes Canyon Road, then continues north along the eastern edge of Lake Hughes Canyon Road to its intersection with Fish Creek, then continues northerly along Fish Creek at a distance 100 feet east of the centerline of the creek bed to its intersection with the center line of the southeast half of Section 19, Township 7 North, Range 15 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBBM), then continues north along the center line to its intersection with Elizabeth Lake Road, then continues east along the southern edge of Elizabeth Lake Road to its intersection with the Elizabeth Lake Day Use Area, then continues east, south, west and north along the boundary of the Elizabeth Lake Day Use Area to its intersection with Elizabeth Lake Road, then continues easterly along the southern edge of Elizabeth Lake Road to its intersection with the Angeles National Forest boundary, then continues south and east along the boundary to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7N01, then continues westerly along the northern edge of Forest Road No. 7N01 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7N02, then continues southwesterly along the northern edge of Forest Road No. 7NO2 to its intersection with San Francisquito Canyon Road, then continues south along the western edge of San Francisquito Canyon Road back to the starting point as shown on Exhibit B.

